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OF THE

DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973

As Amended Through September 30, 1985

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DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973

(Public Law 93-113)

AN ACT To provide for the operation of programs by the ACTION Agency, to establish certain new such programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act, with the following table of contents, may be cited as the "Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973":

(42 U.S.C. 4951 note)

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[1] Item relating to section 108 in the table of contents was added by section 4(a)(2) of Public Law 94-293, the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1976 (May 27, 1976).

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TITLE I—NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS

PART A—VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SEC. 101. This part provides for the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program of full-time volunteer service, together with appropriate powers and responsibilities designed to assist in the development and coordination of such program. The purpose of this part is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate and alleviate poverty and poverty-related problems in the United States by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life, all geographical areas, and all age groups, including low-income individuals, elderly and retired Americans, to perform meaningful and

[1] Effective Jan. 1, 1986, the item 405 is repealed (P.L. 98-288).
[2] Section 413 was deleted pursuant to section 5(b) of Public Law 94-293.

constructive volunteer service in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems and secure and exploit opportunities for self-advancement by persons afflicted with such problems. In addition the objective of this part is to generate the commitment of private sector resources and to encourage volunteer service at the local level to carry out the purposes set forth in this section.

(42 U.S.C. 4951)

AUTHORITY TO OPERATE VISTA PROGRAM

SEC. 102. (a) The Director may recruit, select, and train persons to serve in full-time volunteer programs consistent with the provisions and to carry out the purpose of this part.

(b) If any applicant under this part who is recruited locally becomes unavailable for service prior to the commencement of service, the recipient of the project grant or contract may replace such applicant with another qualified applicant approved by the Director.

(c) The Director shall ensure that not less than 20 per centum of all volunteers under this part are fifty-five years of age or older.

(42 U.S.C. 4952)

ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

SEC. 103. (a) The Director, upon request of Federal, State, or local agencies, or private nonprofit organizations, may assign such volunteers to work in the several States in the local communities in which the volunteers were recruited in appropriate projects and programs, including work—

(1) in meeting the health, education, welfare, or related needs of Indians living on reservations or Federal trust lands, of migratory and seasonal farmworkers and their families, and of residents of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the Virgin Islands;

(2) in the care and rehabilitation of mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and other handicapped individuals, especially those with severe handicaps; and [1]

(3) in addressing the problems of the homeless, the jobless, the hungry, illiterate or functionally illiterate youth and other individuals, and low-income youths;

(4) in addressing the special needs connected with alcohol and drug abuse prevention, education, and related activities, consistent with the purpose of this part; and

(5) in connection with programs or activities authorized, supported, or of a character eligible for assistance under this Act or the Community Service Block Grant Act, titles VIII and X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Headstart act, or the Community Economic Development Act of 1981, in furtherance of the purpose of this title.

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[1] P.L. 98-288 struck out ", and" at the end of 103(a)(2). The amendment fails because a semicolon, not a comma precedes "and".

(b) The Director, wherever feasible and appropriate, shall assign low-income community volunteers to serve in their home communities in teams with nationally recruited specialist volunteers. The Director shall make efforts to assign volunteers to serve in their home communities or in nearby communities and shall make national efforts to attract other volunteers to serve in the VISTA program.

(c) The Director shall provide each low-income community volunteer with an individual plan for job advancement or for transition to a situation leading to gainful employment. Whenever feasible, such efforts shall be coordinated with an appropriate private industry council under the Job Training Partnership Act.

(d) The Director may provide or arrange for educational and vocational counseling of volunteers and recent former volunteers under this part to (1) encourage them to use, in the national interest, the skills and experience which they have derived from their training and service, particularly working in combating poverty as members of the helping professions, and (2) promote the development of appropriate opportunities for the use of such skills and experience, and the placement therein of such volunteers.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (d), the assignment of volunteers under this section shall be on such terms and conditions (including restrictions on political activities that appropriately recognize the special status of volunteers living among the persons or groups served by programs to which they have been assigned) as the Director may determine, including work assignments in their own or nearby communities.

(f) Volunteers under this part shall not be assigned to work in a program or project in any community unless the application for such program or project contains evidence of local support and has been submitted to the Governor or other chief executive officer of the State concerned, and such Governor or other chief executive officer has not, within 45 days of the date of such submission, notified the Director in writing, supported by a statement of reasons, that such Governor or other chief executive officer disapproves such program or project. In the event of a timely request in writing, supported by a statement of reasons, by the Governor or other chief executive officer of the State concerned, the Director shall terminate a program or project or the assignment of a volunteer to a program or project not later than 30 days after the date such request is received by the Director, or at such later date as is agreed upon by the Director and such Governor or other chief executive officer.

(42 U.S.C. 4953)

TERMS AND PERIODS OF SERVICE

SEC. 104. (a) Volunteers serving under this part shall be required to make a full-time personal commitment to combating poverty and poverty-related problems. To the maximum extent practicable, the requirement for full-time commitment shall include a commitment to live among and at the economic level of the people served, and to remain available for service without regard to regular work-

ing hours, at all times during their periods of service, except for authorized periods of leave.

(b) Volunteers serving under this part may be enrolled for periods of service not exceeding two years, but for not less than one-year periods of service, except that volunteers serving under this part may be enrolled for periods of service of less than one year when the Director determines, on an individual basis, that a period of service of less than one year is necessary to meet a critical scarce-skill need. Volunteers serving under this part may be reenrolled for periods of service totaling not more than two years. No volunteer shall serve for more than a total of five years under this part.

(c) Volunteers under this part shall, upon enrollment, take the oath of office as prescribed in section 5(j) of the Peace Corps Act as amended (22 U.S.C. 2504(j)), except that persons legally residing within a State but who are not citizens or nationals of the United States, may serve under this part without taking or subscribing to such oath, if the Director determines that the service of such persons will further the interests of the United States. Such persons shall take such alternative oath or affirmation as the Director shall deem appropriate.

(d) The Director shall establish a procedure, including notice and opportunity to be heard, for volunteers under this part to present and obtain resolution of grievances and to present their views in connection with the terms and conditions of their service. The Director shall promptly provide to each volunteer in service on the date of enactment of this Act, and to each such volunteer beginning service thereafter, information regarding such procedure and the terms and conditions of their service.

(42 U.S.C. 4954)

SUPPORT SERVICE

SEC. 105. (a)(1) The Director may provide a stipend to volunteers, while they are in training and during their assignments, enrolled for periods of service of not less than one year under this part, except that the Director may, on an individual basis, make an exception to provide a stipend to a volunteer enrolled under this part for an extended period of service not totaling one year. Such stipend shall not exceed $75[1] per month during the volunteer's service, except that the Director may provide a stipend not to exceed $75 per month in the case of persons who have served for at least one year and who, in accordance with standards established in regulations which the Director shall prescribe, have been designated volunteer leaders on the basis of experience and special skills and a demonstrated leadership among volunteers.

(2) Stipends shall be payable only upon completion of a period of service, except that under such circumstances as the Director shall determine, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe, the accrued stipend, or any part of the accrued stipend,

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[1] The authorization for a stipend increase, from $50 to $75 per month, was added by section 5(a) of Public Law 94-130, an Act to amend further the Peace Corps Act, and for other purposes (Nov. 14, 1975).

may be paid to the volunteer, or, on behalf of the volunteer, to members of the volunteer's family or others during the period of the volunteer's service. In the event of the death of a volunteer during service, the amount of any unpaid stipend shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of section 5582 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) The Director shall also provide volunteers such living, travel (including travel to and from places of training), and leave allowances, and such housing, supplies, equipment, subsistence, clothing, health and dental care, transportation, supervision, preservice training and where appropriate in-service training, technical assistance and such other support as he deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the purpose and provisions of this part, and shall insure that each such volunteer has available such allowances and support as will enable the volunteer to carry out the purpose and provisions of this part and to effectively perform the work to which such volunteer is assigned.

(42 U.S.C. 4955)

PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES

SEC. 106. To the maximum extent practicable, the people of the communities to be served by volunteers under this title shall participate in planning, developing, and implementing programs thereunder, and the Director, after consultation with sponsoring agencies (including volunteers assigned to them) and the people served by such agencies, shall establish in regulations a continuing mechanism for the meaningful participation of such program beneficiaries.

(42 U.S.C. 4956)

PARTICIPATION OF OLDER PERSONS

SEC. 107. In carrying out this part and part C of this title, the Director shall take necessary steps, including the development of special projects, where appropriate, to encourage the fullest participation of older persons and older persons membership groups as volunteers and participant agencies in the various programs and activities authorized under such parts and because of the high proportion of older persons within the poverty group, shall encourage the development of a variety of volunteer services to older persons, including special projects, to assure that such persons are served in proportion to their need.

(42 U.S.C. 4957)

LIMITATION [1]

SEC. 108. (a) Of funds appropriated for the purpose of this part under section 501, not more than 16 per centum for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984, and for each fiscal year thereafter, may

[1] New section 108 was added by section 4(a)(1) of Public Law 94-293, supra. Section 4(c) of Public Law 94-293, supra, provides that the new section 108 "shall be effective on October 1, 1976, and shall not apply to any agreement for the assignment of volunteers entered into before such date during the period of any such agreement."

be obligated for the direct cost of supporting volunteers in programs or projects carried out pursuant to grants and contracts made under section 402(12).

(b) No funds shall be obligated under this part pursuant to grants or contracts made after the date of the enactment of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979 for new projects for the direct cost of supporting volunteers unless the recipient of each such grant or contract has been selected through a competitive process which includes—

(1) public announcements of the availability of funds for such grants or contracts, general criteria for the selection of new recipients, and a description of the application process and the application review process; and

(2) a requirement that each applicant for any such grant or contract identify, with sufficient particularity to assure that the assignments of volunteers under such grants and contracts will carry out the purpose of this part, the particular poverty or poverty-related problems on which the grant or contract will focus, and any such grant or contract shall specifically so identify such problems.

(42 U.S.C. 4958)

PART B—FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SEC. 111. The purpose of this part is to assist students, through service-learning programs, to undertake volunteer service in such a way as to enhance the educational value of the service experience, through participation in activities that strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate and alleviate poverty and poverty-related problems. This part provides for the University Year for ACTION (UYA) program of full-time volunteer service by students enrolled in institutions of higher education, together with appropriate powers and responsibilities designed to assist in the development and coordination of such programs. The purpose of this part is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate poverty and poverty-related human, social, and environmental problems by enabling students at such cooperating institutions to perform meaningful and constructive volunteer service in connection with the satisfaction of such students' course work during their periods of service while attending such institutions, in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems and secure and exploit opportunities for self-advancement by persons afflicted with such problems. Its purpose further is to provide technical assistance and training to encourage other students and faculty to engage in volunteer service on a part-time, self-supporting basis, to meet the needs of the poor in the surrounding community through expansion of service-learning programs and otherwise.

(42 U.S.C. 4971)

AUTHORITY TO OPERATE UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION PROGRAM

SEC. 112. Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Director is authorized to conduct or make grants and contracts for, or both, programs to carry out the purposes of this part in accordance with the authorities and subject to the restrictions in the provisions of part A of this title, except for the provisions of sections 103(f) and 104(d), and except that the Director may, in accordance with regulations he shall prescribe, determine to reduce or eliminate the stipend for volunteers serving under this part on the basis of the value of benefits provided such volunteers by the institution in question (including the reduction or waiver of tuition).

(42 U.S.C. 4972)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

SEC. 113. (a) Volunteers serving under this part shall be enrolled for periods of service as provided for in subsection (b) of section 104, except that volunteers serving in the University Year for ACTION program may be enrolled for periods of service of not less than the duration of an academic year, but volunteers enrolled for less than 12 months shall not receive stipends under section 105(a)(1). Volunteers serving under this part may receive academic credit for such service in accordance with the regulations of the sponsoring institution of higher education.

(b) Grants to and contracts with institutions to administer programs under this part shall provide that prospective student volunteers shall participate substantially in the planning of such programs and that such institutions shall make available to the poor in the surrounding community all available facilities, including human resources, of such institutions in order to assist in meeting the needs of such poor persons.

(c)(1) In making grants or contracts for the administration of UYA programs under this part, the Director shall insure that financial assistance under this Act to programs carried out pursuant to section 112 of this part shall not exceed 90 per centum of the total cost (including planning costs) of such program during the first year and such amounts less than 90 per centum as the Director, in consultation with the institution, may determine for not more than four additional years, including years in which support was received under title VIII of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2991–2994d). Each such grant or contract shall stipulate that the institution will make every effort to (A) assume an increasing proportion of the cost of continuing a program carrying out the purpose of this part while the institution receives support under this part; (B) waive or otherwise reduce tuition for participants in such program, where such waiver is not prohibited by law; (C) utilize students and faculty at such institution to carry out, on a self-supporting basis, appropriate planning for such programs; and (D) maintain similar service-learning programs after such institution no longer receives support under this part.

(2) The Director shall take necessary steps to monitor the extent of compliance by such institutions with commitments entered into

under paragraph (1) of this subsection and shall advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the extent of each such institution's compliance.

(42 U.S.C. 4973)

SPECIAL SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS

SEC. 114. (a) The Director is authorized to make grants and contracts for technical assistance, training, and projects which encourage and enable students in secondary, secondary vocational, and postsecondary schools to participate in service-learning programs on an in-school or out-of-school basis in assignments of a character and on such terms and conditions as are described in subsections (a) and (e) of section 103. Any project assisted under this part shall meet the anti-poverty criteria of section 111 and contain an educational and service component.

(b) Persons serving as volunteers under this section shall not be deemed to be Federal employees for any purposes.

(c) The Director may provide volunteers serving under this section a living allowance and only such other support or allowance as he determines, pursuant to regulations which he shall prescribe, are required because of unusual or special circumstances affecting the program.

(42 U.S.C. 4974)

PART C—SPECIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SEC. 121. This part provides for special emphasis and demonstration volunteer programs, together with appropriate powers and responsibilities designed to assist in the development and coordination of such programs. The purpose of this part is to strengthen and supplement efforts to meet a broad range of needs, particularly those related to poverty, by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life and from all age groups to perform meaningful and constructive volunteer service in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may help to meet such needs. It is the further purpose of this part to provide technical and financial assistance to encourage voluntary organizations and volunteer efforts at the national, State, and local level.

(42 U.S.C. 4991)

AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE PROGRAMS

SEC. 122. (a)(1) The Director is authorized to conduct or make grants or contracts, or both, for special volunteer programs in urban and rural areas or demonstration programs (such as but not limited to a program to provide alternatives to the incarceration of youthful offenders; a program to promote educational opportunities for veterans; a program to provide community-based peer group outreach and counseling for drug abusers, a program of assistance to victims of domestic violance, a program to provide technical and management assistance to distressed communities, a program de-

signed to provide personal and group financial counseling to low-income and fixed-income individuals (utilizing volunteers with specialized or technical expertise), and a Helping Hand program designed to stimulate and initiate improved methods of providing volunteer services, to encourage wider volunteer participation on a full-time, part-time, or short-term basis to further the purpose of this part, and to identify particular segments of the poverty community which could benefit from volunteer and other antipoverty efforts. In carrying out programs authorized by this part, the Director is authorized to provide for the recruitment, selection, and training of volunteers.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term "Helping Hand" program means a program utilizing person-to-person services to reduce the necessity for institutionalization (in hospitals, mental institutions, nursing homes, other extended-care settings, and other facilities) and to ameliorate residential isolation (through senior centers, half-way house facilities, and other residential settings) of older persons, handicapped persons, and other affected persons, stressing interactions between persons from various age groups, particularly young and old, and carried out in coordination with the appropriate State system for the protection and advocacy of the rights of persons with developmental disabilities established pursuant to section 113 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

(42 U.S.C. 6012)

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, assignment of volunteers under this section shall be on such terms and conditions as the Director shall determine, pursuant to regulations which he shall prescribe.

(c)(1) The Director, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe, may provide to volunteers enrolled for periods of part-time service of not less than 20 hours per week for not less than 26 consecutive weeks under this part such allowances, support, and services as are described in section 105(b) and as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part, and shall apply the provisions of sections 104(c) and 105(b) to the service of volunteers enrolled for full-time service under this part.

(2) The Director, in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe with respect to volunteers enrolled for periods of full-time service of not less than one year under this part—

(A) may provide such volunteers such stipends, in total amounts not in excess of stipends provided under section 105(a) to volunteers serving under part A of this title, as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part; and

(B) to the extent that the terms and conditions of the service of such volunteers are of similar character to the terms and conditions of the service of volunteers enrolled under part A of this title, shall apply to the service of such volunteers enrolled under this part the provisions of sections 103(b) relating to low-income community volunteers, 103(f), 104(d), and 105(a) to the extent such provisions are applied to the service of volunteers enrolled under such part A.

(d)(1) In carrying out programs authorized by this part, the Director shall establish criteria to make grants and enter into contracts, in each fiscal year, on the basis of merit and the equitable geographic distribution of programs.

(2) No grant or contract exceeding $50,000 shall be made under this part unless the grantee or contractor has been selected by a competitive process which includes public announcement of the availability of funds for such grant or contract, general criteria for the selection of recipients or contractors, and a description of the application process and application review process.

(3) Multiple grants or contracts to the same grantee or contractor within any one year to support activities having the same general purpose shall be deemed to be a single grant for the purpose of this subsection, but multiple grants or contracts to the same grantee or contractor to support clearly distinct activities shall be considered separate grants or contracts.

(42 U.S.C. 4992)

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS [1]

SEC. 123. The Director may provide technical and financial assistance to Federal agencies, State and local governments and agencies, and private nonprofit organizations, which utilize or desire to utilize volunteers in connection with carrying out the purpose of this part. Such assistance may be used to facilitate and improve (1) methods of recruiting, training, or utilizing volunteers, (2) technical assistance and training programs, including the creation or expansion of private capabilities where possible and the development of voluntary organizations, with particular emphasis on low-income, minority, and community-based groups, or (3) the administration of volunteer programs. In providing such technical and financial assistance, the Director shall utilize, to the maximum extent feasible, existing programs, and shall seek to avoid duplication of existing programs in the public or private sectors.

(42 U.S.C. 4993)

TITLE II—NATIONAL OLDER AMERICAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

PART A—RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECTS

SEC. 201. (a) In order to help retired persons to avail themselves of opportunities for volunteer service in their community, the Director is authorized to make grants to State agencies (established or designated pursuant to section 305(a)(1) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(1))) or grants to or contracts with other public and nonprofit private agencies and organizations to pay part or all of the costs for the development or operation, or both, of volunteer service programs under this section, if

[1] Section 123 was added by section 3(b)(1) of Public Law 94-293, supra.

the Director determines, in accordance with regulations the Director shall prescribe, that—

(1) volunteers will not be reimbursed for other than transportation, meals, and other out-of-pocket expenses incident to the provision of services under this part;

(2) only individuals aged sixty or over will be enrolled as volunteers to provide services under this part (except for administrative purposes), and such services will be performed in the community where such individuals reside or in nearby communities either (A) on publicly owned and operated facilities or projects, or (B) on local projects sponsored by private nonprofit organizations (other than political parties), other than projects involving the construction, operation, or maintenance of so much of any facility used or to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship;

(3) the program includes such short-term training as may be necessary to make the most effective use of the skills and talents of participating volunteers and individuals, and provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of such volunteers while undergoing such training; and

(4) the program is being established and will be carried out with the advice of persons competent in the field of service involved, and or persons with interest in and knowledge of the needs of older persons.

(b) In no event shall the required proportion of the local contribution (including in-kind contributions) for a grant or contract made under this section be more than 10 per centum in the first year of assistance under this section, 20 per centum in the second such year, 30 per centum in any subsequent such years: *Provided, however*, That the Director may make exceptions in cases of demonstrated need, determined (in accordance with regulations which the Director shall prescribe) on the basis of the financial capability of a particular recipient of assistance under this section, to permit a lesser local contribution proportion than any required contribution proportion established by the Director in generally applicable regulations.

(c) [1] The Director shall not award any grant or contract under this part for a project in any State to any agency or organization unless, if such State has a State agency established or designated pursuant to section 305(a)(1) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(1)), such agency itself is the recipient of the award or such agency has been afforded at least forty-five days in which to review the project application and make recommendations thereon.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, volunteer service under this part shall not be deemed employment for any purpose which the Director finds is not fully consistent with the provisions and in furtherance of the purpose of this part.

(42 U.S.C. 5001)

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[1] Subsection (b) was added by section 4 of Public Law 93-351, an Act to amend title VII of the Older Americans Act relating to the nutrition program for the elderly to provide authorization of appropriations, and for other purposes (July 12, 1974); the then existing subsection (b) was redesignated as subsection (c).

PART B—FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM AND OLDER AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROJECTS

SEC. 211. (a) The Director is authorized to make grants to or contracts with public and nonprofit private agencies and organizations to pay part or all of the cost of development and operation of projects (including direct payments to individuals [1] serving under this part) designed for the purpose of providing opportunities for low-income persons aged sixty or over to [2] provide supportive person-to-person services in health, education, welfare, and related settings to children having exceptional needs, including services by individuals serving as "foster grandparents" to children receiving care in hospitals, homes for dependent and neglected children, or other establishments providing care for children with special needs. The Director may approve assistance in excess of 90 per centum of the costs of the development and operation of such projects only if the Director determines, in accordance with regulations the Director shall prescribe establishing objective criteria, that such action is required in furtherance of the purpose of this section. Provision for such assistance shall be effective as of September 19, 1972. In the case of any project with respect to which, prior to such date, a grant or contract has been made under section 611(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3044(b) or with respect to any project under the Foster Grandparent program in effect prior to September 17, 1969, contributions in cash or in kind from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, toward the cost of the project may be counted as part of the cost thereof which is met from non-Federal sources.

(b)(1) Any public or private nonprofit agency or organization responsible for providing person-to-person services to a child in a project carried out under subsection (a) of this section shall have the exclusive authority to determine, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) which children may receive supportive person-to-person services under such project; and

(B) the period of time during which such services shall be continued in the case of each individual child.

(2) In the event that such an agency or organization determines that it is in the best interests of a mentally retarded child receiving, and of a particular foster grandparent providing, services in such a project, such relationship may be continued after the child reaches the chronological age of 21: *Provided*, That such child was receiving such services prior to attaining the chronological age of 21. If the particular foster grandparent subject to the determination under this paragraph becomes unavailable to serve after such determination is made, the agency or organization may select another foster grandparent.

(3) Any determination made by a public or nonprofit private agency or organization under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsec-

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[1] Section 205(b)(1)(A) of Public Law 94-135, the Older Americans Amendments of 1975 (November 28, 1975), substituted the word "individuals" for "volunteers" in sections 211 and 212.

[2] Section 205(b)(1)(B) of Public Law 94-135, supra, deleted the phrase "serve as volunteers to".

tion shall be made through mutual agreement by all parties involved with respect to the provision of services to the child involved.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the terms "child" and "children" mean any individual or individuals who are less than 21 years of age.

(d) The Director, in accordance with regulations the Director shall prescribe, may provide to persons serving as volunteers under this part, such allowances, stipends, and other support as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this part. Any stipend or allowance provided under this subsection shall not be less than $2.20 per hour, except that (1) no increase in the stipend or allowance shall be made pursuant to this sentence unless the funds appropriated for carrying out this part are sufficient to maintain for the fiscal year in question a number of participants to serve under this part at least equal to the number of such participants serving during the preceding fiscal year, and (2) in the event that sufficient appropriations for any fiscal year are not available to increase any such stipend or allowance provided to $2.20 per hour, the Director shall increase the stipend or allowance to such amount as appropriations for such year permit consistent with clause (1) of this exception.

(e) For purposes of this part, the terms "low-income person" and "person of low income" mean—

(1) any person whose income is not more than 125 per centum of the poverty line defined in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and adjusted by the Director in the manner described in such section; and

(2) any person whose income is not more that 100 per centum of such poverty line, as so adjusted and determined by the Director after taking into consideration existing poverty guidelines as appropriate to local situations.

Persons described in paragraph (2) shall be given special consideration for participation in projects under this part.

(42 U.S.C. 5011)

CONDITIONS OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

SEC. 212. (a)(1) In carrying out this part, the Director shall insure that individuals receiving assistance in any project are older persons of low income who are no longer in the regular work force.

(2)(A) The Director shall award a grant or contract under this part for a project to be carried out over an area in a State more comprehensive than one community, to the State agency established or designated pursuant to section 305(a)(1) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(1)), unless (i) the State has not established or designated such an agency; or (ii) such agency has been afforded at least 45 days to (I) review the project application made by a prospective grantee or contractor other than such agency for a project to be carried out in such State; and (II) make recommendations thereon. In the event that such an established or designated State agency is not awarded the grant or contract, any application approved for a project in such

State shall contain or be supported by satisfactory assurances that the project has been developed, and will, to the extent feasible, be conducted in consultation with, or with the participation of, such agency.

(B) The Director shall award a grant or contract under this part for a project to be carried out entirely in a community served by a community action agency, to such agency unless such agency and the State agency established or designated pursuant to section 305(a)(1) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3025(a)(1)) have been afforded at least 45 days to (i) review the project application made by a prospective grantee or contractor other than either such agency for a project to be carried out in such community; and (ii) make recommendations thereon. In the event that such a community action agency or such an established or designated State agency is not awarded the grant or contract, any application approved for a project to be carried out entirely in such community shall contain or be supported by satisfactory assurances that the project has been developed, and will, to the extent feasible, be conducted, in consultation with, or with the participation of, such community action agency.

(b) The term "community action agency" as used in this section means a community action agency as defined in title II of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2781-2837). (29 U.S.C. 5012)

Part C—Senior Companions Program

Grants and contracts for the program

Sec. 213. (a) The Director is authorized to make grants to or contracts with public and nonprofit private agencies and organizations to pay part or all of the cost of development and operation of projects (including direct payments to individuals serving under this part in the same manner as provided in section 211(a)) designed for the purpose of providing opportunities for low-income persons aged 60 or over to serve as "senior companions" to persons with exceptional needs. Senior companions may provide services designed to help older persons requiring long-term care, including services to persons receiving home health care, nursing care, home-delivered meals or other nutritional services; services designed to help persons deinstitutionalized from mental hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions; and services designed to assist persons having developmental disabilities and other special needs for companionship.

(b) The provisions of section 211(d) and section 211(e) and such other provisions of part B as the Director determines to be necessary shall apply to the provisions of this part.

(c)(1) The Director is authorized to make grants or contracts for senior companion projects to assist homebound elderly to remain in their own homes and to enable institutionalized elderly to return to home care settings.

(2)(A) The Director is authorized to recruit, subject to subparagraph (B), senior companion volunteer trainers who on the basis of experience (such as, doctors, nurses, home economists, social work-

ers) will be used to train senior companion volunteers to participate in and monitor initial and continuing needs assessments and appropriate in-home services for senior companion volunteer recipients. The needs assessments and in-home services shall be coordinated with and supplement existing community based home health and long-term care systems. The Director may also use senior companion volunteer leaders, who on the basis of experience as volunteers, special skills, and demonstrated leadership abilities may spend time in the program (in addition to their regular assignment) to assist newer senior companion volunteers in performing their assignments and in coordinating activities of such volunteers.

(B) Senior companion volunteer trainers recruited under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not be paid stipends.

(3) The Director shall conduct an evaluation of the impact of the projects assisted under this subsection based upon a sample survey of projects so assisted. In the third year of such study, the Director shall prepare and submit a report to the Congress. Such evaluation study shall include information on—

(A) the extent to which costs of providing long-term care are reduced by using senior companion volunteers who receive stipends in the provision of long-term care services;

(B) the effectiveness of the provision of long-term care with the use of volunteers;

(C) the extent to which health care needs and health related costs of the senior companion volunteers themselves are affected because of their involvement in the project;

(D) the extent of coordination with other Federal and State efforts aimed at enabling older individuals to receive care in their own homes; and

(E) the effectiveness of using senior companion volunteer leaders and of involving senior companion volunteers based on the training of the volunteer leaders and volunteers.

(42 U.S.C. 5013)

PART D—GENERAL PROVISIONS

COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SEC. 221. In carrying out this title, the Director shall consult with the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services, and any other Federal agencies administering relevant programs with a view to achieving optimal coordination with such other programs, and shall promote the coordination of projects under this title with other public or private programs or projects carried out at State and local levels. Such Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Director in disseminating information about the availability of assistance under this title and in promoting the identification and interest of low-income and other older persons whose services may be utilized in projects under this title.[1]

(42 U.S.C. 5021)

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[1] Section 205(c) of Public Law 94-135, supra, provides that:

"(c)(1) In order to provide maximum coordination between programs carried out under title III and title VII of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. 3045 et seq.) and national older American volunteer programs carried out under title II of the Domestic Vol-

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PAYMENTS

SEC. 222. Payments under this title pursuant to a grant or contract may be made (after necessary adjustment, in the case of grants, on account of previoulsy made overpayments or underpayments) in advance or by way of reimbursement, in such installments and on such conditions, as the Director may determine.

(42 U.S.C. 5022)

MINORITY GROUP PARTICIPATION

SEC. 223. The Director shall take appropriate steps to insure that special efforts are made to recruit, select, and assign qualified individuals sixty years and older from minority groups to serve as volunteers under this title.

(42 U.S.C. 5023)

USE OF LOCALLY GENERATED CONTRIBUTIONS IN OLDER AMERICAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SEC. 224. Whenever locally generated contributions made to volunteer programs for older Americans under this title are in excess of the amount required by the Director, the Director may not restrict the manner in which contributions are expended if expenditures from locally generated contributions are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5024)

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY

SEC. 401. There is hereby established in the executive branch of the Government an agency to be known as the ACTION Agency in order to provide a focal point for volunteerism at the national, State, and local level. Such Agency shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate

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unteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5001 et seq.), and in order to enhance the effectiveness of the support provided to such national older American volunteer programs by the ACTION Agency, the Director of the ACTION Agency shall designate an aging resource specialist with respect to programs carried out in each State under title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973.

"(2)(A) Each aging resource specialist designated under paragraph (1) shall be qualified to serve in such capacity by appropriate experience and training, and shall be stationed in a State office of the ACTION Agency.

"(B) The primary responsibility of each aging resource specialist shall be—

"(i) to support programs carried out under title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 in any State or other jurisdiction served by the State office involved; and

"(ii) to seek to coordinate such programs with programs carried out under title III and title VII of the Older Americans Act of 1965 in any State or other jurisdiction.

"(3) For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) the term 'ACTION Agency' means the ACTION Agency established by section 401 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 5041);

"(B) the term 'primary responsibility' means the devotion of more than one-half of regular working hours to the performance of duties described in paragraph (2)(B); and

"(C) the term 'State' means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Island, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands."

provided for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code. There shall also be in such agency a Deputy Director who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code. The Deputy Director shall perform such functions as the Director shall from time to time prescribe, and shall act as Director of the ACTION Agency during the absence or disability of the Director. There shall also be in such agency one Associate Director who shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate provided for level 5 of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. Such Associate Director shall be designated "Associate Director for Domestic and Anti-Poverty Operations" and shall carry out operational responsibility for all programs authorized under this Act. There shall also be in such agency two Assistant Directors, each of whom shall be appointed by the Director, and who shall report directly to the Associate Director for Domestic and Anti-Poverty Operations. One such Assistant Director shall be primarily responsible for VISTA and other antipoverty programs under title I of this Act, and one such Assistant Director shall be primarily responsible for the Older American Volunteer Programs under title II of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5041)

AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR

SEC. 402. In addition to the authority conferred upon him by other sections of this Act, the Director is authorized to—

(1) appoint in accordance with the Civil Service laws such personnel as may be necessary to enable the ACTION Agency to carry out its functions, and, except as otherwise provided herein, fix the compensation of such personnel in accordance with chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code except that the number of schedule C employees, individuals employed on a temporary basis at GS–8 or higher, experts, and consultants shall at no time exceed 8.5 per centum of the total number of individuals employed by the ACTION Agency;

((2)(A) employ experts and consultants or organizations thereof as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, except that no individual may be employed under the authority of this subsection for more than one hundred days in any fiscal year; (B) compensate individuals so employed at rates not in excess of the daily equivalent of the rate payable to a GS–18 employee under section 5332 of such title, including travel-time; (C) allow such individuals, while away from their homes or regular places of business, travel expenses (including per diem in lieu of subsistence) as authorized by section 5703 of such title for persons in the Government service employed intermittently, while so employed; and (D) annually renew contracts for such employment under this clause;

(3) with the approval of the President, arrange with and reimburse the heads of other Federal agencies for the performance of any of the provisions of this Act and, as necessary or

appropriate, delegate any of his functions under this Act and authorize the redelegation thereof subject to provisions to assure the maximum possible liaison between the ACTION Agency and such other agencies at all operating levels, which shall include the furnishing of complete operational information by such other agencies to the ACTION Agency and the furnishing of such information by the ACTION Agency to such other agencies;

(4) with their consent, utilize the services and facilities of Federal agencies without reimbursement, and, with the consent of any State or a political subdivision of a State, accept and utilize the services and facilities of the agencies of such State or subdivisions without reimbursement;

(5) accept in the name of the ACTION Agency, and employ or dispose of in furtherance of the purposes of this Act, or of any title thereof, any money or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, received by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise;

(6) accept voluntary and uncompensated services;

(7) allocate and expend, or transfer to other Federal agencies for expenditure, funds made available under this Act as he deems necessary to carry out the provisions hereof, including expenditure for construction, repairs, and capital improvements;

(8) disseminate, without regard to the provisions of section 3204 of title 39, United States Code, data and information, in such form as he shall deem appropriate to public agencies, private organizations, and the general public;

(9) adopt an official seal, which shall be judicially noticed;

(10) collect or compromise all obligations to or held by him and all legal or equitable rights accruing to him in connection with the payment of obligations in accordance with Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (31 U.S.C. 951-53);

(11) expend funds made available for purposes of this Act as follows: (A) for printing and binding, in accordance with applicable law and regulations; and (B) without regard to any other law or regulation, for rent of buildings and space in buildings and for repair, alteration, and improvement of buildings and space in buildings rented by him; but the Director shall not utilize the authority contained in this subclause (B)—

(i) except when necessary to obtain an item, service, or facility, which is required in the proper administration of this Act, and which otherwise could not be obtained, or could not be obtained in the quantity or quality needed, or at the time, in the form, or under the conditions in which, it is needed, and

(ii) prior to having given written notification to the Administrator of General Services (if the exercise of such authority would affect an activity which otherwise would be under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration) of his intention to exercise such authority, the item, service, or facility with respect to which such authority is proposed to be exercised, and the reasons and justifications for the exercise of such authority.

(12) notwithstanding any other provision of law, make grants to or contracts with Federal or other public departments or agencies and private nonprofit organizations for the assignment or referral of volunteers under this Act (except as provided in section 108) which may provide that the agency or organization shall pay all or a part of the costs of the program:

(13) establish such policies, standards, criteria, and procedures, prescribe such rules and regulations, enter into such contracts and agreements with public agencies and private organization and persons, and make such payments (in lump sum or installments, and in advance or by way of reimbursement, and in the case of grants otherwise authorized under this Act, with necessary adjustments on account of overpayments and underpayments) as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act; and

(14) generally perform such functions and take such steps, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act, as he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5042)

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

SEC. 403. (a) No part of any funds appropriated to carry out this Act, or any program administered by the ACTION Agency, shall be used to finance, directly or indirectly, and activity designed to influence the outcome of any election to Federal office, or the outcome of any election to any State or local public office, or any voter registration activity, or to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the ACTION Agency, who, in his official capacity as such an officer or employee, engages in any such activity. As used in this section, the term "election" has the same meaning (when referring to an election for Federal office) given such term by section 301(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-225), and the term "Federal office" has the same meaning given such term by section 301(3) of such Act.

(b)(1) Programs assisted under this Act shall not be carried on in a manner involving the use of funds, the provision of services, or the employment or assignment of personnel in a manner supporting or resulting in the identification of such programs with (A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office, (B) any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election, or (C) any voter registration activity.

(2) No funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall be used by any program assisted under this Act in any activity for the purpose of influencing the passage of defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition, except—

(A) in any case in which a legislative body, a committee of a legislative body, or a member of a legislative body requests any volunteer in, or employee of, such a program to draft, review,

or testify regarding measures or to make representations to such legislative body, committee, or member; or

(B) in connection with an authorization or appropriations measure directly affecting the operation of the program.

(c) The Director, after consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, shall issue rules and regulations to provide for the enforcement of this section, which shall include provisions for summary suspension of assistance for no more than thirty days until notice and an opportunity to be heard can be provided or other action necessary to permit enforcement on an emergency basis.

(42 U.S.C. 5043)

SPECIAL LIMITATIONS

SEC. 404. (a) The Director shall prescribe regulations and shall carry out the provisions of this Act so as to assure that the service of volunteers assigned, referred, or serving pursuant to grants, contracts, or agreements made under this Act is limited to activities which would not otherwise be performed by employed workers and which will not supplant the hiring of or result in the displacement of employed workers, or impair existing contracts for service.

(b) All support, including transportation provided to volunteers under this Act, shall be furnished at the lowest possible costs consistent with the effective operation of volunteer programs.

(c) No agency or organization to which volunteers are assigned hereunder, or which operates or supervises any voluntary program hereunder, shall request or receive any compensation for services of volunteers supervised by such agency or organization.

(d) No funds authorized to be appropriated herein shall be directly or indirectly utilized to finance labor or anti-labor organization or related activity.

(e) Persons serving as volunteers under this Act shall provide such information concerning their qualifications, including their ability to perform their assigned tasks, and their integrity, as the Director shall prescribe and shall be subject to such procedures for selection and approval as the Director determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. The Director may establish such special procedures for the recruitment, selection, training, and assignment of low-income residents of the area to be served by a program under this Act who wish to become volunteers as he determines will further the purposes of this Act.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director shall assign or delegate any substantial responsibility for carrying out programs under this Act only to persons appointed or employed pursuant to clauses (1) and (2) of section 402, and persons assigned or delegated such substantial responsibilities on the effective date of this Act and who are receiving compensation in accordance with provisions of law other than the applicable provisions of title 5, United States Code, on such date shall, by operation of law on such date, be assigned a grade level pursuant to such latter provisions so as to fix the compensation of such persons under such authority at no less than their compensation rate on the day preceding such date.

(g)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law except as may be provided expressly in limitation of this subsection, payments to volunteers under this Act shall not in any way reduce or eliminate the level of or eligibility for assistance or services any such volunteers may be receiving under any governmental program, except that this paragraph shall not apply in the case of such payments when the Director determines that the value of all such payments, adjusted to reflect the number of hours such volunteers are serving, is equivalent to or greater than the minimum wage then in effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) or the minimum wage, under the laws of the State where such volunteers are serving, whichever is the greater.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person enrolled for full-time service as a volunteer under title I of this Act who was otherwise entitled to receive assistance or services under any governmental program prior to such volunteer's enrollment shall not be denied such assistance or services because of such volunteer's failure or refusal to register for, seek, or accept employment or training during the period of such service.

(42 U.S.C. 5044)

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEC. 405.[1] (a) There is hereby established in the ACTION Agency a National Voluntary Service Advisory Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") to be composed of not more than twenty-five members appointed, not later than ninety days after the date of the enactment of this Act, by and serving at the pleasure of the President. Such members shall be representative of public and private organizations, groups, and individuals interested in serving and benefited by programs carried out under this Act. The President shall designate a temporary chairperson from such members and shall call the initial meeting of the Council within thirty days after appointment of such Council. Members of the Council shall designate a permanent chairperson from such members and shall meet at the call of such chairperson, but not less than four times in each year. Members of the Council, other than those regularly employed by the Federal Government, while attending meetings of such Council shall receive compensation and travel expenses as provided in section 402(2) of this Act with respect to experts and consultants. The Director and Deputy Director of the ACTION Agency shall be ex officio members of the Council.

(b) The Council shall—

(1) advise the Director with respect to policy matters arising in the administration of this Act; and

(2) upon the request of the Director, review the effectiveness and the operation of programs under this Act and make recommendations (including such proposals for changes in such Act as the Council deems appropriate) concerning (A) the improvement of such programs, (B) the elimination of duplication of effort, and (C) the coordination of such programs with other

[1] Subsection (d) was added by section 5(a) of Public Law 94-293, supra. Effective Jan. 1, 1986, sec. 405 is repealed (P.L. 98-288).

Federal programs designed to assist the beneficiaries of such Act.

(d) In the event that a National Advisory Council to the ACTION Agency is established by administrative action after January 1, 1976, the provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall apply to any such Council.

(42 U.S.C. 5045)

LABOR STANDARDS

SEC. 406. All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the construction, alteration or repair, including painting and decorating of projects, buildings and works which are federally assisted under this Act shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a—276a-5). The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to such labor standards, the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Number 14 of 1950 (15 F.R. 3176; 64 Stat. 1267) and in section 2 of the Act of June 1, 1934, as amended (48 Stat. 948, ch. 492, as amended; 40 U.S.C. 276c).

(42 U.S.C. 5046)

REPORTS

SEC. 407. Not later than one hundred and twenty days after the end of each fiscal year, the Director shall prepare and submit to the President for transmittal by the President to the Congress a full and complete report on the activities of the ACTION Agency during such year. Such report shall reflect the findings and actions taken as a result of any evaluation conducted pursuant to section 416.

(42 U.S.C. 5047)

JOINT FUNDING

SEC. 408. Pursuant to regulations prescribed by the President, and to the extent consistent with the other provisions of this Act, where funds are provided for a single project by more than one Federal agency to an agency or organization assisted under this Act, the Federal agency principally involved may be designated to act for all in administering the funds provided, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, in such cases, a single non-Federal share requirement may be established according to the proportion of funds advanced by each agency. When the principal agency involved is the ACTION Agency, it may waive any grant or contract requirement (as defined by such regulations) under or pursuant to any law other than this Act, which requirement is inconsistent with the similar requirements under or pursuant to this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5048)

PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL CONTROL

SEC. 409. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any education institution or school system.

(42 U.S.C. 5049)

COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

SEC. 410. The Director shall take necessary steps to coordinate volunteer programs authorized under this Act with one another, with community action programs, and with other related Federal, State, and local programs. The Director shall also consult with the heads of other Federal, State, and local agencies responsible for programs related to the purposes of this Act with a view to encouraging greater use of volunteer services in those programs and establishing in connection with them systematic procedures for the recruitment, referral, or necessary preservice orientation or training of volunteers serving pursuant to this Act. The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce, and the Treasury and officials of other appropriate departments and agencies, shall take all appropriate steps to encourage State and local governments, charitable and service organizations, and private employers (1) to take into account experience in volunteer work in the consideration of applicants for employment; and (2) to make provisions for the listing and description of volunteer work on all employment application forms.

(42 U.S.C. 5050)

PROHIBITION

SEC. 411. In order to assure that existing Federal agencies are used to the fullest extent possible in carrying out the purposes of this Act, no funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall be used to establish any new department or office when the intended function is being performed by an existing department or office.

(42 U.S.C. 5051)

NOTICE AND HEARING PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 412. (a) The Director is authorized, in accordance with the provisions of this section, to suspend further payments or to terminate payments under any contract or grant providing assistance under this Act, whenever he determines there is a material failure to comply with the applicable terms and conditions of any such grant or contract. The Director shall prescribe procedures to insure that—

(1) assistance under this Act shall not be suspended for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions, except in emergency situations for thirty days;

(2) an application for refunding under this Act may not be denied unless the recipient has been given (A) notice at least 75 days before the denial of such application of the possibility of such denial and the grounds for any such denial, and (B) opportunity to show cause why such action should not be taken;

(3) in any case where an application for refunding is denied for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant or contract award, the recipient shall be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing before an impartial hearing officer, who has been agreed to by the recipient and the Agency; and

(4) assistance under this Act shall not be terminated for failure to comply with applicable terms and conditions unless the recipient has been afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for a full and fair hearing.

(b) In order to assure equal access to all recipients, such hearings or other meetings as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section shall be held at locations convenient to the recipient agency.

(42 U.S.C. 5052)

[Sec. 413, Repealed.] [1]

DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

SEC. 414. The Director shall adopt appropriate administrative measures to assure that the benefits of and services under this Act will be distributed equitably between residents of rural and urban areas.

(42 U.S.C. 5054)

APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAW

SEC. 415. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section, volunteers under this Act shall not be deemed Federal employees and shall not be subject to the provisions of laws relating to Federal officers and employees and Federal employment.

(b) Individuals enrolled as volunteers for periods of full-time service, or, as the Director deems appropriate in accordance with regulations, for periods of part-time service of not less than 20 hours per week for not less than 26 consecutive weeks, under title I of this Act: shall, with respect to such service or training, (1) for the purposes of subchapter III of chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code, be deemed persons employed in the executive branch of the Federal Government, (2) for the purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), be deemed employees of the United States, and any service performed by an individual as a volunteer (including training) shall be deemed to be performed in the employ of the United States, (3) for the purposes of the Federal Tort Claims provisions of title 28, United States Code, be deemed employees of the United States, (4) for the purposes of subchapter 1 of

[1] Section 413 was repealed by section 5(a) of P.L. 94-293.

chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relative to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries), shall be deemed civil employees of the United States within the meaning of the term "employee" as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply except as follows: (A) in computing compensation benefits for disability or death, the annual rate of pay of a volunteer enrolled for a period of full-time service under such title I shall be deemed to be that received under the entrance salary for a grade GS-7 employee, and the annual rate of pay of a volunteer enrolled for a period or part-time service under such title I shall be deemed to be such entry salary or an appropriate portion thereof as determined by the Director, and subsections (a) and (b) of section 8113 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply, and (B) compensation for disability shall not begin to accrue until the day following the date on which the injured volunteer is terminated, and (5) be deemed employees of the United States for the purposes of section 5584 of title 5, United States Code (and stipends and allowances paid under this Act shall be considered as pay for such purposes).

(c) Any period of service of a volunteer enrolled in a program for a period of service of at least one year under part A of title I of this Act, and any period of full-time service of a volunteer enrolled in a program for a period of service of at least one year under part B or C of title I of this Act, shall be credited in connection with subsequent employment in the same manner as a like period of civilian employment by the United States Government—

(1) for the purposes of any Act establishing a retirement system for civilian employees of any United States Government agency; and

(2) except as otherwise determined by the President, for the purposes of determining seniority, reduction in force, and layoff rights, leave entitlement, and other rights and privileges based upon length of service under the laws administered by the Office of Personnel Management, the Foreign Service Act of 1980, and every other Act establishing or governing terms and conditions of service of civilian employees of the United States Government: *Provided*, That service of a volunteer shall not be credited toward completion of any probationary or trial period or completion of any service requirement for career appointment.

(d) Volunteers serving in programs for periods of service of at least one year under part A of title I of this Act, and volunteers serving for such periods under title VIII of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2991-2994d), including those whose service was completed under such Act, who the Director determines, in accordance with regulations he shall prescribe, have successfully completed their periods of service, shall be eligible for appointment in the competitive service in the same manner as Peace Corps volunteers as prescribed in Executive Order Number 11103 (April 10, 1963).

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all references in any other law to persons serving as volunteers under title VIII of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, shall be deemed to be references to persons serving as full-time volunteers

in a program of at least one year's duration under part A, B, or C of title I of this Act.

(f)(1) The remedy—

(A) against the United States provided by sections 1346(b) and 2672 of title 28, United States Code, or

(B) through proceedings for compensation or other benefits from the United States as provided by any other law, where the availability of such benefits precludes a remedy under section 1346(b) or 2672 of such title 28,

for damages for personal injury, including death, allegedly arising from malpractice or negligence of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, nurse, physician assistant, expanded-function dental auxiliary, pharmacist, or paramedical (for example, medical and dental technicians, nursing assistants, and therapists) or other supporting personnel in furnishing medical care or treatment while in the exercise of such person's duties as a volunteer enrolled under title I of this Act shall be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding by reason of the same subject matter against such person (or such person's estate) whose action or omission gave rise to such claim.

(2) The Attorney General of the United States shall defend any civil action or proceeding brought in any court against any person referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection (or such person's estate) for any such damage or injury. Any such person against whom such civil action or proceeding is brought shall deliver, within such time after date of service or knowledge of service as determined by the Attorney General, all process served upon such person or an attested true copy thereof to such person's immediate supervisor or to whomever is designated by the Director to receive such papers, and such person shall promptly furnish copies of the pleading and process therein to the United States attorney for the district embracing the place wherein the proceeding is brought and to the Attorney General.

(3) Upon a certification by the Attorney General that the defendant was acting in the scope of such person's volunteer assignment at the time of the incident out of which the suit arose, any such civil action or proceeding commenced in a State court shall be removed without bond at any time before trial by the Attorney General to the district court of the United States of the district and division embracing the place wherein it is pending and the proceeding deemed a tort action brought against the United States under the provisions of title 28, United States Code, and all references thereto. After removal the United States shall have available all defenses to which it would have been entitled if the action had originally been commenced against the United States. Should a district court of the United States determine on a hearing on a motion to remand held before a trial on the merits that the volunteer whose act or omission gave rise to the suit was not acting within the scope of such person's volunteer assignment, the case shall be remanded to the State court.

(4) The Attorney General may compromise or settle any claim asserted in such civil action or proceeding in the manner provided in section 2677 of title 28, United States Code, and with the same effect.

(42 U.S.C. 5055)

EVALUATION

SEC. 416. (a) The Director shall biennially measure and evaluate the impact of all programs authorized by this Act, their effectiveness in achieving stated goals in general, and in relation to their cost, their impact on related programs, and their structure and mechanisms for delivery of services. Evaluations shall be conducted by persons not immediately involved in the administration of the program or any project of such program being evaluated. Such evaluation shall also measure and evaluate compliance with the equitable distribution requirement of section 414 of this Act.

(b) The Director shall develop and publish general standards for evaluation of program and project effectiveness in achieving the objectives of this Act. Reports submitted pursuant to section 407 shall describe the actions taken as a result of evaluations carried out under this section.

(c) In carrying out evaluations under this title, the Director shall whenever possible, arrange to obtain the opinions of program and project participants about the strengths and weaknesses of such programs and projects.

(d) The Director shall publish summaries of the results of evaluations of program and project impact and effectiveness no later than sixty days after the completion thereof.

(e) The Director shall take the necessary action to assure that all studies, evaluations, proposals, and data produced or developed with Federal funds shall become the property of the United States.

(f) The Director is authorized to use such sums as are required, but not to exceed 1 per centum of the funds appropriated under this Act, to conduct program and project evaluations (directly, or by grants or contracts) as required by this Act. In the case of allotments from such an appropriation, the amount available for such allotments (and the amount deemed appropriate therefor) shall be reduced accordingly.

(42 U.S.C. 5056)

NONDISCRIMINATION

SEC. 417. (a) The Director shall not provide financial assistance for any program under this Act unless the grant, contract, or agreement with respect to such program specifically provides that no person with responsibilities in the operation of such program will discriminate with respect to any such program because of race, creed, belief, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or political affiliation. For purposes of this subsection, and for purposes of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), any program, project or activity to which volunteers are assigned under this Act shall be deemed to be receiving Federal financial assistance.

(b) No person in the United States shall on the ground of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be subjected to discrimination under, or be denied employment in connection

with, any program or activity receiving assistance under this Act. The Director shall enforce the provisions of the preceding sentence in accordance with section 602 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d–1). Section 603 of such Act shall apply with respect to any action taken by the Director to enforce such sentence. This section shall not be construed as affecting any other legal remedy that a person may have if that person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in connection with any program or activity receiving assistance under this Act.

(c)(1) The Director shall apply the nondiscrimination policies and authorities set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16), in title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.), and in the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94–135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) to applicants for enrollment for service as volunteers, and to volunteers serving, under this Act. Any remedies available to individuals under such laws, other than the right of appeal to the Civil Service Commission authorized by section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by Reorganization Plan Number 1 of 1978, shall be available to such applicants or volunteers.

(2) No later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979, the Director, after consultation with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with regard to the application of the policies set forth in section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16) and with the Interagency Coordinating Council, established by section 507 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 797), and the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees, established by section 501(a) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791(a)), with regard to the application of the policies set forth in title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.), and, not later than 90 days after the Secretary of Health and Human Services publishes final general regulations to carry out the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Public Law 94–135, title III; 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), and after consultation with the Secretary with regard to the application of the policies set forth in such Act, shall prescribe regulations establishing the procedures for the application of such policies and the provision of such remedies so as to promote the enrollment and service of persons as volunteers without regard to the discriminatory factors described in such laws.

(42 U.S.C. 5057)

ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER BENEFITS

SEC. 418. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no payment for supportive services or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to persons serving pursuant to title II of this Act shall be subject to any tax or charge or be treated as wages or compensation for the purposes of unemployment, temporary disability, retirement, public assistance, workers' compensation or similar benefit payments, or minimum wage laws. This section shall become ef-

fective with respect to all payments made after the effective date of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5058)

LEGAL EXPENSES

SEC. 419. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and pursuant to regulations which the Director shall prescribe, counsel may be employed and counsel fees, court costs, bail, and other expenses incidental to the defense of volunteers may be paid in judicial or administrative proceedings to which full-time volunteers (or part-time volunteers when such proceeding arises directly out of the performance of activities pursuant to this Act, serving under this Act have been made parties.

(42 U.S.C. 5059)

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS

SEC. 420. (a) For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "regulation" means any rule, regulation, guideline, interpretation, order, or requirement of general applicability prescribed by the Director pursuant to this Act; and

(2) the term "Committees" means the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate.

(b) Regulations prescribed by the Director or by any other officer of the ACTION Agency, in connection with, or affecting, the administration of any program carried out under this Act shall contain, immediately following each substantive provision of such regulations, citations to the particular section or sections of statutory law or other legal authority upon which such provision is based.

(c)(1) No proposed regulation prescribed pursuant to this Act for the administration of any program carried out under this Act may take effect until 30 calendar days after it is published in the Federal Register.

(2) During the 30-day period before the date upon which such regulation is to be effective, the Director shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, offer any interested party an opportunity to make comment upon, and take exception to, such regulations and shall reconsider any such regulation upon which comment is made or to which exception is taken.

(d) Concurrently with the publication in the Federal Register of any final regulation, a copy of such final regulation shall be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate. No such final regulation may take effect until 45 calendar days after such transmission.

(e) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of any Act affecting the administration of any program carried out under this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committees a schedule in accordance with which the Director has planned to prescribe final regulations implementing such Act or part of such Act. Such schedule shall provide that all such final regulations shall be prescribed not later than 180 days after the submission of such schedule.

Except as is provided in the following sentence, all such final regulations shall be prescribed in accordance with such schedule. If the Director determines that, due to circumstances unforeseen at the time of the submission of any such schedule, the schedule submitted pursuant to this subsection cannot be met, the Director shall submit a notice of such determination, including a statement of the reasons therefor, to the Committees and shall submit a new schedule which shall then be considered, for the purposes of this subsection, as the schedule originally submitted in connection with the enactment of the Act involved.

(42 U.S.C. 5060)

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 421. For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Director" means the Director of the ACTION agency; [1]

(2) the terms "United States" and "States" mean the several States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, the American Samoa and, for the purposes of title II of this Act, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

(3) the term "nonprofit" as applied to any agency, institution, or organization means an agency, institution, or organization which is, or is owned and operated by, one or more corporations or associations no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; and

(4) the term "poor" or "low-income" persons, individuals, or volunteers means such individuals whose incomes fall at or below the poverty line as set forth in section 625 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended by Public Law 92-424 (42 U.S.C. 2971d): *Provided,* That in determining who is "poor" or "low-income", the Director shall take into consideration existing poverty guidelines as appropriate to local situations.

(42 U.S.C. 5061)

AUDIT

SEC. 422. (a) Each recipient of Federal grants, subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or loans entered into under this Act other than by formal advertising, and which are otherwise authorized by this Act, shall keep such records as the Director shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such assistance, the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such assistance is given or used, the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(b) The Director and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall, until the expiration of three years after completion of the project or un-

[1] So in original. Should be "Agency".

dertaking referred to in subsection (a) of this section, have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of such recipients which in the opinion of the Director or the Comptroller General may be related or pertinent to the grants, contracts, subcontracts, subgrants, or loans referred to in subsection (a).

(42 U.S.C. 5062)

REDUCTION OF PAPERWORK

SEC. 423. In order to reduce unnecessary, duplicative, or disruptive demands for information, the Director, in consultation with other appropriate agencies and organizations, shall continually review and evaluate all requests for information made under this Act and take such action as may be necessary to reduce the paper work required under this Act. The Director shall request only such information as the Director deems essential to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5063)

REVIEW OF PROJECT RENEWALS

SEC. 424. If the executive authority of any State of local government submits to the director, not later than 30 days before the expiration of any contract or grant to carry out any project under this Act, a statement which objects to the renewal of such contract or grant, then the Director shall (1) review such statement and take it into account in determining whether to renew such contract or grant; and (2) submit to such executive authority a written statement of reasons regarding the Director's determination with respect to such renewal and specifically with respect to any objection so submitted.

(42 U.S.C. 5064)

TITLE V—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 501. (a) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part A of title I of this Act $17,000,000 for fiscal year 1984, $20,000,000 for fiscal year 1985, and $25,000,000 for fiscal year 1986.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part B of title I of this Act $1,800,000 for the fiscal year 1984 and for each of the fiscal years 1985 and 1986.

(c) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part C of title I of this Act $1,984,000 for the fiscal year 1984 and for each of the fiscal years 1985 and 1986.

(d)(1) Of the amounts appropriated under this section for parts A, B, and C of title I, there shall first be available for part A of title I, an amount not less than the amount necessary to provide—

(A) 2,000 years of volunteer service in fiscal year 1984;

(B) 2,200 years of volunteer service in fiscal year 1984; and

(C) 2,400 years of volunteer service in fiscal year 1986.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term "volunteer service" shall include training and other support required under this Act for purposes of part A of title I.

(3) The requirement of paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply unless there is appropriated for title I for fiscal year 1984 an amount in addition to amounts available under Public Law 98-151.

(e) No part of the funds authorized under subsection (a) may be used to provide volunteers or assistance to any program or project authorized under part B or C of title I, or under title II, unless the program or project meets the antipoverty criteria of part A of title I.

(42 U.S.C. 5081)

NATIONAL OLDER AMERICANS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SEC. 502. (a) There is authorized to be appropriated $30,412,000 for fiscal year 1983, $29,700,000 for fiscal year 1984, $30,400,000 for fiscal year 1985, and $31,100,000 for fiscal year 1986 for the purpose of carrying out programs under part A of title II of this Act.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated $52,650,000 for fiscal year 1983, $54,300,000 for fiscal year 1984, $56,700,000 for fiscal year 1985, and $58,700,000 for fiscal year 1986, for the purpose of carrying out programs under part B of title II of this Act.

(c) There is authorized to be appropriated $17,607,000 for fiscal year 1983, $27,800,000 for fiscal year 1984, $28,200,000 for fiscal year 1985, and $28,600,000 for fiscal year 1986 for the purpose of carrying out part C of title II of this Act.

(42 U.S.C. 5082)

[Sec. 503. Repealed. P.L. 95-510, sec. 102(b) October 24, 1978, 92 Stat. 1781.]

ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

SEC. 504. There is authorized to be appropriated for the administration of this Act, as authorized in title IV of this Act, $25,800,000 for fiscal year 1984, $27,000,000 for fiscal year 1985, and $28,000,000 for fiscal year 1986.

(42 U.S.C. 5084)

AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 505. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless enacted in express and specific limitation of the provisions of this section, funds appropriated for any fiscal year to carry out any program under this Act or any predecessor authority shall remain available, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, for obligation and expenditure until expended.

(42 U.S.C. 5085)

TITLE VI—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS AND REPEALERS

SUPERSEDENCE OF REORGANIZATION PLAN NUMBER 1 OF JULY 1, 1971

SEC. 601. (a) Sections 1, 2(a), 3, and 4 of the Reorganization Plan Number 1 of 1971 (July 1, 1971) are hereby superseded.

(b) The personnel, property, records, and unexpected balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred to the Director of the ACTION Agency by sections 2(a) and 4 of such reorganization plan are hereby transferred to the ACTION Agency established by section 401. All grants, contracts, and other agreements awarded or entered into under the authority of such reorganization plan will be recognized under comparable provisions of this Act so that there is no disruption of ongoing activities for which there is continuing authority.

(c) All official actions taken by the Director of the ACTION Agency, his designee, or any other person under the authority of such reorganization plan which are in force on the effective date of this Act and for which there is continuing authority under the provisions of this Act, and the length of the period of service of volunteers serving or under going training under title VIII of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2991-2994d) on the effective date of this Act, shall continue in full force and effect until modified, superseded, or revoked by the Director.

(d) All references to ACTION, or the Director of ACTION in any statute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation, or other official document or proceeding shall, on and after the effective date of this Act, be deemed to refer to the ACTION Agency established by section 401 and the Director thereof.

(e) No suit, action or other proceeding, and no cause of action, by or against the agency known as ACTION created by such reorganization plan, or any action by any officer thereof acting in his official capacity, shall abate by reason of enactment of this Act.

(f) Persons appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to positions requiring such advice and consent under such reorganization plan may continue to serve in the same capacity in the ACTION Agency without the necessity of an additional appointment by the President or further such advice and consent by the Senate.

CREDITABLE SERVICE FOR CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

SEC. 602. Section 8332(b)(7) of title 5, United States Code (relating to creditable service to civil service retirement), is amended by inserting a comma and "or a period of service of a full-time volunteer enrolled in a program of at least one year's duration under part A, B, or C of title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (— U.S.C.—)" after "Economic Opportunity Act of 1964".

REPEAL OF TITLE VIII OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

SEC. 603. Title VIII of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2991-2994d), is hereby repealed.

REPEAL OF TITLE VI OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

SEC. 604. (a) Title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3044–3044e), is hereby repealed.

(b) Section 908 of the Older Americans Comprehensive Services Amendments Act of 1973 (public Law 93–29) is amended by striking out "1973," and "1974," and inserting in lieu thereof "1974," and "1975,", respectively.

Approved October 1, 1973.

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